

B. 9/20/07

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



487553

## U.S. EPA proposes to add Lusher Avenue site to list of environmental top priorities

By BRIDGET LEVITZ  
Truth Staff

ELKHART — A section of Elkhart's south side could be named a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Superfund site.

The EPA proposed adding the large area, described as the "Lusher Street Ground Water Contamination site," to its growing list of nationwide trouble spots needing hefty environmental cleanup work.

According to EPA reports, an underground plume of industrial solvents remains at high levels in an area bordered on the north by the St. Joseph River, on the west by Nappanee Street, on the south by Hively Avenue and on the east by Oak-

land Avenue.

A spot on the EPA's Superfund National Priorities List means the south-side area will be eligible for federal study and cleanup resources.

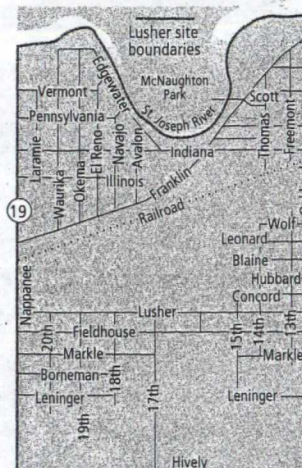
**More information:**  
Superfund sites more common than you'd think/  
A9

Recent data indicates the contaminated material may be moving north toward the river, though EPA officials don't believe any residents in the area are using the tainted drinking water.

The area has a history of contamination. Since 1987, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management has worked to provide alternate sources of water for impacted neighborhoods.

Please see Risk/A9

## Area of proposed Superfund addition



Truth Map By Jane Thompson

## Elkhart County EPA Superfund sites

**Conrail Yard** — added to EPA list in 1988, cleanup completed in 2004. The approximately 675-acre rail yard was in operation from 1956 until 1976. Numerous oil spills led to groundwater contamination nearby.

**Himco Dump** — added to the EPA list in 1988, cleanup continues. The Himco Dump was in operation between 1960 and 1976 and covers about 40 acres at C.R. 10 and the Nappanee Extension, partially in the Elkhart city limits and partially in the county. Tests showed wells near the site had copper, lead, arsenic, mercury, zinc and other metals.

**Main Street Wellfield** — added to the list in 1982, cleanup completed in 1995. Groundwater contaminants including TCE (trichloroethylene) were found in 1981 at the Main Street Wellfield site that consists of 15 wells. It is the largest of the three wellfields owned by the city, and supplies about 70 percent of the drinking water for residents of Elkhart.

Source: www.epa.gov

and many ta that spike ev lawmakers al to reduce the erty tax burd About 942, Indiana's 1.7 n homeowner not itemize th come taxes, ac ing to estr provided by I office.

Those home ers will pay a erage of \$1.2t property taxes year. Bayh's of single, middl paying that am \$300 tax break

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Hill said man to help with pr he returned ho gust congressio

"When I tell ti legislature and sponsibility, the do something al

The bill would with property ta bill would cost t and \$13 billion ing on how mar deduction.

## Nation produces most flu shots ever

*Officials urge all to get vaccinated, not just high-risk*

By LAURAN NEERGAARD  
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON — Come one, come all: After years of shortages and confusion, this fall promises plenty of flu vaccine to go around — up to 132 million doses, more than the nation has ever produced.

The ample supplies have the government urging vaccinations not just for people at highest risk of dying from influenza, but for anyone who wants to avoid a week of aching misery.

"Flu is a formidable foe," Dr. Julie Ger-

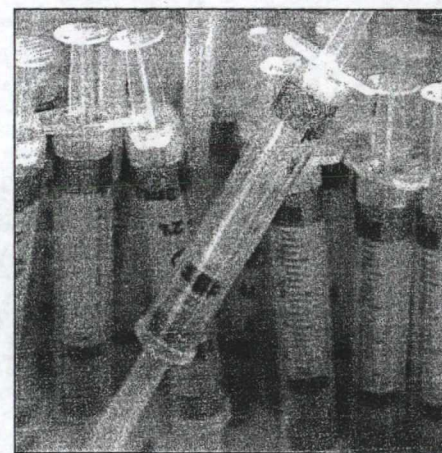
berding, head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said Wednesday. "It is not an illness we should be complacent about."

But new CDC data show only a fraction of people who need flu shots the most get them, including just one in five babies and toddlers. And there's wide geographic variation, with Rhode Island reporting the most high-risk adults vaccinated and Nevada the fewest.

Shots aren't the only option. Wednesday, the government ruled that it's safe for younger kids than ever before to try a nasal-spray vaccine called FluMist. Once only an option for people ages 5 to 49, FluMist now can be used by children as young as 2.

Flu usually peaks in February, so a winter vaccination isn't too late. Still,

Please see Flu/A10



Associated Press

**Their best shot:** Syringes filled with an influenza vaccine await use at a clinic last year. A record vaccine supply is available this fall.

## Who's obeying bridge limit

The Johnson Street Bridge has strict drivers of the 11-ton weight limit. But is anyone enforcing the rule?

Robert Borrelli of etruth.com learned that Elkhart police haven't written any tickets for overweight trucks, which are using the bridge quite often.

Bill Beckford, an Indiana State Police motor carrier enforcement officer, visited the bridge with Borrelli to see if they are doing, and at least a few are following guidelines.

To watch the video report, go to etr



see the v  
www.etr



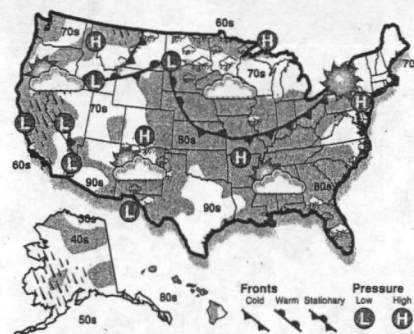
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### In the know — five things to talk about today



# National Forecast



City	Hi	Lo	Prc	City	Hi	Lo	Prc
Albany, N.Y.	74	43	cr	Charleston, W.Va.	85	51	cdy
Anchorage	51	46	1.39 m	Charlotte, N.C.	82	54	cdy
Asheville	77	50	cdy	Chicago	84	69	cr
Atlanta	82	60	cdy	Cincinnati	89	57	cr
Atlantic City	74	52	cdy	Cleveland	83	56	cdy
Baltimore	77	50	cdy	Columbia, S.C.	82	60	cdy
Boston	68	51	63 cdy	Columbus, Ohio	86	58	cdy
Buffalo	79	56	cdy	Concord, N.H.	74	39	cr
Charleston, S.C.	75	63	m	Dallas-Ft. Worth	92	76	cdy
				Dayton	85	59	cdy
				Denver	84	46	cr
				Des Moines	77	58	31 cdy
				Detroit	86	57	cdy
				El Paso	91	65	cdy
				Fairbanks	48	44	13 cdy
				Fargo	65	44	m
				Flagstaff	69	42	cr
				Grand Rapids	82	65	cr
				Honolulu	88	77	cr
				Houston	91	76	cdy
				Jacksonville	75	68	52 cdy
				Juneau	48	47	54 m
				Kansas City	85	64	cdy
				Key West	88	77	m
				Las Vegas	90	72	cr
				Little Rock	88	66	cr
				Los Angeles	72	62	cdy
				Louisville	89	62	cr
				Memphis	90	65	cr
				Miami Beach	90	74	08 m
				Milwaukee	79	71	cr
				Mpls-St. Paul	70	57	17 cdy
				Nashville	86	61	cr
				New Orleans	87	71	cr
				New York City	76	56	cr
				Norfolk, Va.	73	68	01 m
				Oklahoma City	89	69	cdy
				Orlando	80	71	56 cdy
				Pendleton	70	42	cdy
				Philadelphia	80	55	cr
				Phoenix	99	76	cdy
				Pittsburgh	81	50	cr
				Portland, Maine	66	38	cr
				Portland, Ore.	69	49	cdy
				Providence	69	48	cr
				Reno	72	58	cdy
				Richmond	78	57	cdy
				Sacramento	71	54	cdy
				St. Louis	90	69	cdy
				St. Petersburg	81	76	01 m
				Salt Lake City	83	46	cr
				San Diego	68	65	cdy
				San Francisco	64	56	cdy
				Santa Fe	83	46	cdy
				Seattle	63	59	cdy
				Tampa	83	74	m
				Topeka	84	65	cdy
				Tucson	93	72	cr
				Tulsa	89	72	cdy
				Washington, D.C.	79	58	cdy
				Wichita	89	68	cdy
				Wilmington, Del.	79	51	cr

# World Temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Amsterdam	59	46	m	Kabul	86	64	cr
Athens	84	53	cr	Kuwait	111	77	cr
Baghdad	104	78	cr	London	60	43	cr
Batna	107	73	cr	Madrid	81	58	cr
Bahrain	96	83	cr	Mecca	112	87	cr
Bangkok	92	79	pc	Mexico City	75	53	m
Copenhagen	59	48	m	Moscow	62	41	pc
Dublin	55	36	m	Nairobi	78	60	pc
Frankfurt	56	44	m	New Delhi	102	82	cr
Guatemala	79	61	m	Olo	53	32	pc
Helsinki	55	46	m	Panama	87	57	pc
Hong Kong	89	80	pc	Paris	57	48	m
Islamabad	94	71	cr	Rio de Janeiro	73	66	pc
Jerusalem	89	71	cr	Rome	80	71	m
				San Jose	81	64	m

# State Forecast

City	High	Low	Condition
Evansville	90	62	Sunny
Fort Wayne	82	60	Sunny
Indianapolis	86	66	Sunny
Lafayette	87	62	Sunny
Muncie	85	61	Sunny
Terre Haute	86	61	Mostly sunny

# Pollen Count

grass: 1 (low); mold: 4265 (moderate); ragweed: 42 (high); weed: 16 (moderate).  
South Bend Clinic

# Sun, Moon

Sunset today: 7:45 p.m.  
Sunrise Friday: 7:30 a.m.  
Moonrise: 4:25 p.m.  
Moonset: 12:04 a.m.  
New moon: Oct. 11  
First quarter moon: Oct. 19  
Full moon: Sept. 26  
Last quarter moon: Oct. 3  
Daylight today: 736 minutes  
Days left in year: 104  
Those born on this date are under the sign of: Virgo

# Mike Hoffman's Forecast, Stats



Today: Partly sunny and rather warm. High: 82. Tonight: Mostly clear and mild. Low: 62. Friday: A good deal of sunshine and warmer again. High: 86; low: 64. Saturday: Partly sunny and not quite as warm. Still unseasonable for this time of year. High: 82; low: 58. Sunday: Mostly sunny and warm. High: 84; low: 62. Monday: Partly sunny and even warmer again. High: 86; low: 64. Wednesday's high: 84. Wednesday's low: 64. Wednesday's average temperature: 74. Today's high last year: 59.

Today's low last year: 42. Today's record high: 91, set in 1998. Today's record low: 36, set in 1956. Wednesday's precipitation: none. Cumulative precipitation for year: 30.67 inches. Cumulative snowfall for season: none. Average precipitation as of this date: 28.63 inches. Average snowfall as of this date: none. (Rain, snow measured at South Bend Regional Airport.)

Mike Hoffman is the chief meteorologist for WNDU News Center 16 and can be seen on the 5, 5:30, 6 and 11 p.m. newscasts.

# Risk

From Page A1

At that time, IDEM found industrial solvents in residential wells and began hooking homes up to Elkhart's municipal water supply or placing carbon filters on drinking wells.

IDEM discovered the most recent round of contamination in 2006. This time, even higher levels of trichloroethylene — more commonly known as TCE — appeared in the wells, said IDEM project manager Mark Jaworski.

Exposure to TCE, an agent most often used to degrease metals, can affect the central nervous system, with symptoms such as dizziness, headaches, confusion, euphoria, facial numbness and weakness.

After testing, IDEM found 34 drinking water wells in the area contaminated with TCE and other solvents typically used as parts cleaner, foam plastic blowing agents and engine cleaner.

Ten wells were found to exceed the U.S. EPA's maximum contaminant level of 5 parts per billion. An additional 24 drinking water wells have low concentrations of chlorinated solvents.

Because of the sheer number of industrial facilities in the area, IDEM couldn't locate the source of contamination — even after visiting 40-plus businesses on or near Lusher Avenue, Jaworski said.

In the late '80s, it was musical instrument maker Gemeinhardt Co. Inc., located on Nappanee Street, that IDEM named as the source. But this time around, IDEM suspects the contamination problem comes from multiple sources. That's where the EPA's Superfund program can help.

"A site becomes a Superfund when there is no obvious viable responsible party to fund the cleanup," said Mick Hans, U.S. EPA spokesman. "Going onto the Superfund list means more financial and technical support."

Hans works in the EPA's Region 5, which consists of Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

EPA testing and remediation work through Superfund ultimately aims to identify sources of contamination, name those sources as responsible parties and recover EPA costs for the cleanup.

Though inside city limits, brownfield coordinator Dargh Deegan said the Lusher

Avenue remediation is beyond the scope of what Elkhart could fund. Mike Machlan, public works and utilities co-director, said the city will be ready to provide clean water for any resident in need.

"Elkhart has always been there when there is a groundwater contamination issue allowing city water to help," Machlan said.

The Lusher Avenue site was one of 11 sites proposed for the

Superfund list Wednesday, including the East Troy Contaminated Aquifer in Troy, Ohio. There now are 1,249 sites on the National Priorities List.

The EPA will gather public comment on its proposed NPL list for the next 60 days. The earliest the Elkhart location would be added, said Hans, is 2008, after public comment is reviewed.

Contact Bridget Levitz at [blevitz@etruth.com](mailto:blevitz@etruth.com).

# Details

Why so many Superfund sites in Elkhart County? The fourth-proposed Elkhart County Superfund site now up for consideration by the U.S. EPA begs the question, why? Is Elkhart County unique in the number of contaminated areas in need of cleanup?

According to U.S. EPA spokesman Mick Hans, Superfund sites are common throughout EPA's Region 5, made up of Indiana,

Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

"We are in the heart of the Midwest — with a history of thriving traditional industry," Hans said. "We have more Superfund sites than any other of the 10 (EPA) regions."

Contaminants such as those found in the groundwater in the Lusher Avenue location are commonly used in the industries across the region.

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